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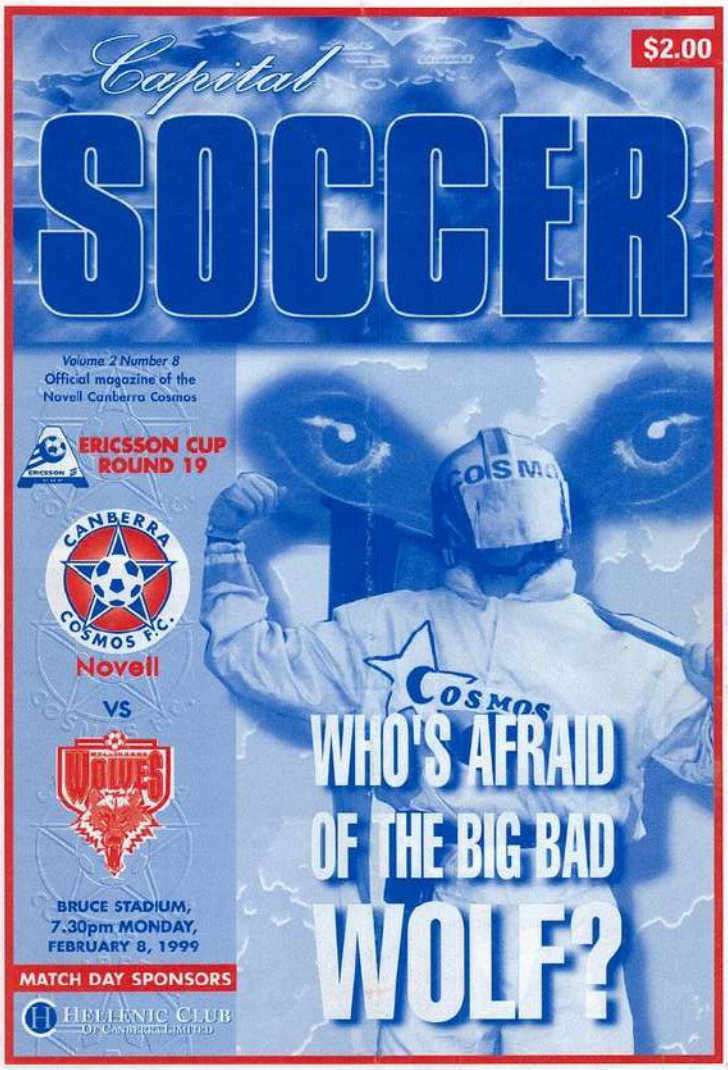
Canberra Cosmos F.C.
Novell
VS
Sydney Olympic F.C.

Bruce Stadium, Monday, February 22, 1999



FOOTBALL DE FEMMES

ECLIPSE STRETCHES LEAD OF NATIONAL SERIES

Canberra Eclipse are on target to reach their first Ansett Australia Summer Series grand final after a 1-0 win over SASI Pirates yesterday (Sunday) in their last home appearance of the season.

In a game that could have gone either way, Angela Iannotta secured the winner in the 79th minute when she thumped home an acute-angled shot from the right of the goal, beating Pirates keeper Tracey Wheeler.

For much of the game, few threatening chances were created by either team, both defences working solidly against the opposition's attacking moves.

But in the last twenty minutes, the intensity increased as both teams desperately pressed forward to try and break the deadlock, the Eclipse surviving a close call in the 76th minute when a risky defensive tackle in the box was ignored by the referee, amid calls for a Pirates penalty.

"We didn't play as well as Saturday, our intensity was down and our passing not as sharp, plus the Pirates tactics worked well against us," said Eclipse coach Ian Murray, "but luck was with us, so I'm happy that we escaped with a win.

Pirates coach Kevin McCormack praised the home side. "We had two close games this weekend, the results could have been different, so I am a little disappointed. But the Eclipse are a classy team with good players all over the park and a great playing style. They're my favourites to win the Series" he said.

Eclipse have moved three points clear of NSWIS Sapphires, who drew 1-1 with Northern NSW Horizon yesterday (Sunday), the Pirates a further four points behind.

The top two teams on the table after the round games will meet in the Series final. With three rounds remaining, and each of the top three teams to have a bye, it appears that only a disaster would prevent the Eclipse reaching the final. If they finish top of the table, the final will be played in Canberra.

Ansett Australia Summer Series Round 7
Result: Canberra Eclipse 1 (A. Iannotta 79min) defeated SASI Pirates 0

Progress Points:

Canberra Eclipse	23
NSWIS Sapphires	20
SASI Pirates	16
QAS Sting	11
Northern NSW Horizon	7

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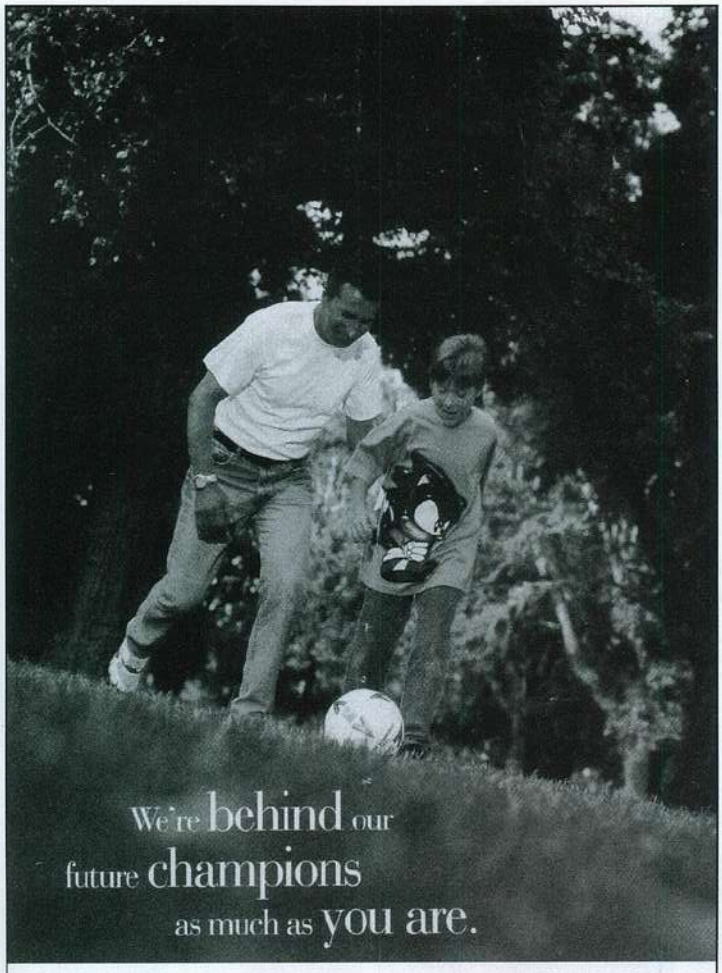

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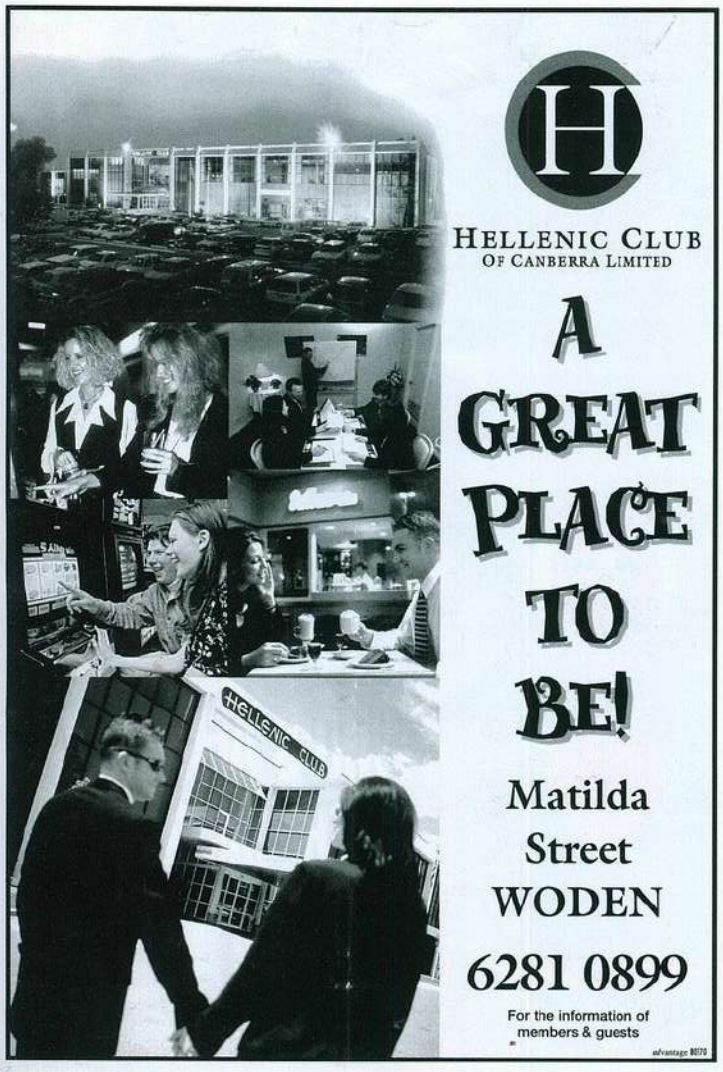

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE *Ian Knop*

When I last wrote we had just won our first point of the season. Since then we have earned, and deservedly so, another four points.

Our away loss last week, by just one goal, to third placed Adelaide City was a good effort by the Cosmos by any standard.

During the week I read criticism of the number of coaches the Cosmos has had. I would counter this criticism by suggesting that selecting a coach is, by its very nature, an uncertain process. Regardless of a coach's reputation, how he will perform is uncertain until he actually begins to work with a team.

A rich club can afford to buy players who have proven ability to perform at the highest level. With such players almost any coach should be able achieve results.

The challenge for a coach comes with a squad like that of the Cosmos, bursting with young talent but lacking experience and self-confidence. A coach requires empathy with such a group, must have excellent communication skills and be able to instil the confidence they lack.

Not too many coaches can do that as we have discovered, and it takes time to find one. However, I think we might have one now.

A very warm welcome today to the Wollongong Wolves. I am sure we will enjoy some lively football. We will certainly be seeking to maintain the precedent set at our last home game.

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COSMOS NEWS *Nick Guoth*

PREVIEWS:

Tonight the Canberra Cosmos take on the Wollongong Wolves. Fresh from their upset win last weekend against the reigning premiers and current Ericsson Cup leaders, South Melbourne, they will have their tails up.

There are a number of players to watch out for in the Wollongong side. Matthew Horsley is not only the captain, but also the mainstay of the team. He scored both goals in the game last Sunday and is always a danger when he makes his moves down the right side.

Esala Masi is another to look out for. Although a substitute last weekend, he was a real thorn in South's side, nearly scoring with his first touch. The Fijian international forward is a live wire and will need to be marked carefully.

Canberra's record at home against Wollongong is not the best with a 1-1-2, the only win coming in the third round of the 1995-96 season. A good performance by the boys tonight will see them even this record up.

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REVIEWS:

What can I say? The improvement in performances on the park with the two draws away to Gippsland and the Sharks was topped at the last home game by a great 3-0 win over Newcastle.

The result not only broke the long sequence of games without a win, but also kept the Cosmos undefeated against Newcastle. Furthermore, the win meant that the prestigious Prime Minister's Cup remained in Canberra for another year.

It was also the first time this season that Canberra had kept a clean sheet. The defence marshalled by sweeper Amarildo Miglietti and keeper Vilson Knezevic limited Newcastle to rare chances and most shots were from long range.

The first goal came after thirteen minutes. Doug Marcina hounded Glenn Sprod into an errant clearance which fell to Leo Langone. Langone charged into the penalty area and when tackled the ball fell to Peter Buljan who turned and scored from 12m out.

Six minutes later a long ball from defence found Buljan who's delicate layoff was met by Langone. Leo's first time shot looped over a stranded Bob Catlin and into the net to double the score.

The third and final goal came with a few minutes to go. As the small crowd starting to settle knowing the win was theirs, a pass from Norman Kelly found Langone who's layoff was met by a running Doug Marcina. Marcina rode one challenge and shot truly to start the champagne bottles popping.

Let the celebrations begin...
Inset: Steve Doszpot alongside Norman Kelly are presented the PM's Cup by Gary Nairn, Member for Eden Monaro.

Photos: Amanda Drake

Newcastle rarely threatened and were generally limited to a rare shot from long distance. On the odd occasion Sang-Chul Yoon was able to penetrate, but before he could do any damage, a Cosmos defender closed him down.

There were two ex-Cosmos players starting for Newcastle, and one of these Tom Haythornthwaite was easily one of their best players. Even after he took a boot to the right eye, he provided the spark needed to keep Newcastle from looking bad.

Tom Sermanni was pleased with the result but stated "we still need to set our aims accordingly, and must now concentrate on future games. The result will ease the pressure on the players."

Last weekend, the Cosmos ventured back to Hindmarsh Stadium in Adelaide where against the Sharks one week earlier they had gained a point. This time, against one of the true heavyweight clubs of the league, Adelaide City, the task would be much harder.

Damian Mori proved to be the class player we all know him to be when he scored in the 23rd minute to notch up his 100th goal for Adelaide City and his 120th A-League goal.

Adelaide dominated most of the match outplaying the rather under strength and injury-hit Canberra outfit, yet Canberra had a few chances. Adelaide keeper Jason Petkovic had to be at full stretch to stop a wicked Buljan drive.

Best for Canberra were Lindsay Wilson, Amarildo Miglietti and Ivo De Jesus.

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CLUB NEWS *By John Bonnett*

CASUALTY LIST

Regrettably any encounters of a physical kind will produce casualties. The Canberra Cosmos squad is no exception.

Some injuries take longer to overcome than others. Sometimes they take so long to heal that supporters wonder what has happened to the players. So to set your minds at rest here is a short report on players who are suffering, or who have suffered, injuries that are taking/have taken longer to heal than any of us would like.

Harry James suffered a stress fracture in his foot last October when playing Marconi at Bruce. He returned to Newcastle to recover but eventually it became apparent that surgery was inevitable.

Harry was operated on over Christmas and has been in plaster ever since.

The good news is that Harry will have the plaster removed in mid February and will immediately begin an intensive rehabilitation program.

Andrew Clark has a progressive groin injury. He underwent surgery three weeks ago and is making a good recovery. Andrew expects to start training again at the end of February.

Ivan Zelic damaged his right thigh muscles with the Olyroos while warming -up for the first match against the visiting South Koreans in January. Fortunately he is back in training and we should see him in action again before the end of February.

As you all know **Gordon Hunter** was almost prepared to fly here using his own arms so keen was he to return to the Cosmos. But at virtually the first training session in January he, too, suffered an injury to his right thigh muscles which has kept him out of the team until, hopefully, tonight.

To those who will be back shortly, we are glad you are close to being fit again and we look forward to seeing you before long.

To those still on the road to recovery, hurry up and get well soon for you are greatly missed.

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Clockwise from top left: *Kim Hilliard from Totalcare along with Norman Kelly and Tom Sermanni present Participation Certificates.*

The long and the short of it... Vilson Knezevic hands out keeping tips to Juergen Tode.

Nick Purdue, Norman Kelly and Tom Sermanni with some of the enthusiastic participants at the Totalcare Cosmos Coaching Clinic.

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COACH'S CORNER *Tom Sermanni*

Last week's defeat by Adelaide City was slightly disappointing to me, although in the context of a club in the top three defeating the club at the bottom of the table by just a single goal, it cannot be seen as a bad result.

The goal scored against us was an unfortunate goal that we should have prevented. We must not allow our opponents opportunities like that.

The lads seemed to be flatter against Adelaide City than in previous games. I know that they were playing their third game in a week and had had to travel to Adelaide, but that should not be an excuse.

All players in the squad must realise that they, as individuals, have to set the standard required of them in the National League. We may not always win, but winning will only happen when each and every player sets for himself, and maintains regardless of the circumstances, very high standards upon which the club will build.

Having said that, I know the lads can do it, for we were able to stay with Adelaide City throughout the game and were a bit unlucky towards the end.

Our last home game was, of course, the first win of the season and it was great to get. However, that was the start point and not the finishing point. As far as I'm concerned the positives still outweigh the negatives. We have a very good squad of players and we will continue to get results as the season progresses.

There are always injuries and illnesses that are a nuisance throughout a season. All clubs suffer them, creating misfortunes for some teams but at the same time opportunity for others.

Today I hope we will see Gordon Hunter take the field and hope that Peter Buljan and Danny Burt will have fully recovered from illness.

Finally, a very big thank you for the huge reception you gave the players at the end of the Newcastle game. It gave the lads a great boost and I can assure you we will be doing our best to earn a similar reception today.

ERICSSON CUP ROUND 18

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sth Melbourne	17	11	3	3	34	20	36
Sydney United	17	11	2	4	30	19	35
Adelaide City	17	10	2	5	27	14	32
North. Spirit	17	9	2	6	20	18	29
Carlton	17	8	4	5	34	22	28
Perth Glory	17	8	3	6	30	20	27
Sydney Olympic	17	8	3	6	32	23	27
Brisbane Strikers	16	7	4	5	22	19	25
Marconi	17	7	3	7	29	33	24
Newcastle	17	6	3	8	17	25	21
Woll'gong Wolves	17	5	5	7	25	30	20
Adelaide Sharks	17	5	4	8	26	28	19
Melb. Knights	16	3	4	9	16	26	13
Gippsland	16	3	4	9	10	30	13
Canb. Cosmos	17	1	2	14	12	37	5

Round 19 Matches: Newcastle v Sydney Olympic, Brisbane v Nth Spirit, Gippsland v Carlton, Sth Melbourne v Melb. Knights, Sdy. United v Adelaide City, Adelaide Sharks v Perth Glory, Marconi - BYE

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	16	10	5	1	51	12	35
North. Spirit	16	11	2	3	32	13	35
Newcastle	16	10	4	2	34	15	34
Marconi	15	9	5	1	46	12	32
Sydney Olympic	16	10	2	4	43	18	32
Wollongong	15	10	1	4	44	13	31
QAS	15	9	1	5	44	21	28
NSWIS	14	8	3	3	33	12	27
Sdyney United	16	6	4	6	29	24	22
Marconi Colts	16	5	3	8	16	26	18
ACTAS	17	3	2	12	23	44	11
Syd. Utd Colts	15	3	0	12	16	48	9
Nth. Spirit Colts	15	2	2	11	14	62	8
Syd Olym. Acad.	16	1	3	12	12	51	6
Woll'gong Colts	16	1	1	14	8	75	4

MATCH DAY TEAM LISTS

1	Vilson Knezevic	1	Leslie Pogliacomi
2	Harry James	2	George Souris
3	Toplica Popovich	3	Alvin Ceccoli
4	Daniel Burt	4	Robert Stanton
5	Lindsay Wilson	5	Sebsatian Sinozic
6	Ivan Zelic (Captain)	6	Matthew Horsley
7	Doug Marcina	7	Michael Brooks
8	Anthony Magnacca	8	Anthony Surjan
10	Peter Buljan	9	Sasho Dimoski
11	David Arranz	10	Steven Karavatakis
12	Leo Langone	11	Scott Chipperfield
13	Andrew Clark	12	Rayond Younis
14	Amarildo Miglietti	13	Noel Spencer
16	Ilija Prenzoski	14	Saso Petrovski
17	Michael Musitano	15	David Huxley
18	Norman Kelly	16	Damon Langan
20	Grant Barlow	17	Esala Masi
24	Paul Roberts	19	Paul Reid
25	Ivo De Jesus	20	Daniel Beltrame
26	Gabriel Gonzalez		
27	Nicholas Purdue		
28	Gordon Hunter		
30	Angelo Konstantinou		
Coach	Tom Sermanni	Coach	Nick Theodorakopoulos

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ACADEMY NEWS *Chris Conti*

Tonight we welcome the Wollongong Wolves Youth team to Bruce Stadium for this second round clash. All Academy players, officials, and supporters will be very keen to avenge our 1-2 loss at Brandon Park in November last year. We will also want to show the Canberra supporters that, like the Cosmos, we are a different proposition to visiting teams than we were last year - but for different reasons.

Most of the Youth teams we are playing (unless they are an Academy team like ourselves, or a Colts team) usually field a majority of players 2-3 years older than our lads, and usually have a fair sprinkling of first team, overage players. Just as they are entitled to, within the rules of the competition. However, in the long run this will enable our younger Canberra players, to take longer steps in the game, more quickly. Most of our 16/17 year olds are also not simply facing an age-difference, they are also playing against the kind of quality opposition they have not faced before, but since October, they have gradually been finding the attitude, the commitment, the sense of purpose, the temperament to harness with their skills and survive at this elite level.

During October & November last year, we played 8 games and conceded 33 goals, and not because our keepers were at fault - we were naive, lacked the experience, and failed to keep the extreme concentration for 90 minutes, necessary in the NYL against strikers who have played at International level or have scored in the Ericsson Cup. But Ray Junna and Ian Shaw have been able to develop the team' s confidence and improve their defensive qualities so that in December & January our record reads played 9 games, conceded 11 goals - quite a difference.

Another example - in October, Marconi thrashed us 1-9 at Bruce Stadium. We played the same team on 20th January, and despite having only ten men when Manuel Sermeno was sent off, Marconi scored the only goal of the game in the final minute, with most observers declaring us very unlucky to lose. Similarly, some of you may have witnessed our last home game, a 0-2 defeat by Newcastle Breakers - we also played well in that game against a very hard, older team which led the NYL for most of 1999, but our performance was light years ahead of the 2-5 mauling we received in the second game of the season at Breakers Stadium. In many ways Wollongong are a similar team to Newcastle, so tonight' s game will be another yardstick by which to measure improvement, success and individual players' potential for further improvement.

There is, of course, another way in which to assist the development of our young elite players: ask any of the extremely talented U/15 team which won the National Championship in 1997 and progressed into the Academy team, whether they found the progression from ACT Premier League U/19 to NYL a difficult step - you will get a resounding yes, and in many ways it is unfair of us to expect them to make that step easily and without set-backs. We need to give the opportunity to more 15/16/17 year olds, that can be catered for at ACTAS, the opportunity to be playing uncompromising, high-level football on a regular basis. There were probably another 15-20 quality players that Ray Junna could not find a place for in the ACTAS programme this year. Having an ACT or a club team in the NSW Super League would certainly give another group of Canberra players this opportunity to hone their skills and temperament in the tough grounds around Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, and it would certainly hasten their development - either within the game, or out of that particular level.

In other positive moves, Tommy Sermanni, will be inviting a number of Academy players to first team training in the next few weeks to see how some of the boys fit in, and Junna will also be inviting some of Soccer Canberra' s U/14 and U/15 squad to ACTAS training for a similar purpose. The developmental pathways for our soccer players are very nearly complete, with a couple of obvious omissions (in my opinion) - however, what is clear is that we now have the coaches, administrators and directors of coaching in position, who are setting up a structure whereby Canberra will reap rewards in the future and enable us to make greater strides at a national level.

In our last way game, against Marconi Colts, goalkeeper Rade Kosanovic, in making a brave save at the feet of an attacker, sustained a very nasty ear injury, and had to receive micro-surgery at Canberra Hospital. We all wish Rade a speedy recovery, and hopefully he will not be out for too long. Paul Ivanic took over the custodial duties and made a couple of very useful saves. Tonight, however, Paul will be back on the field, with probably either Grant Barlow or David Collins will take over in goal.

Phil Yarnold, Marcial Munoz and, of course, Kosanovic are out injured; and Elliott Zwangobani, David Palywoda and Andrew Young (physio) are still in Portugal with the Australian Futsal team. However, Heath Gillett has returned from the Australian Schoolboys tour of New Zealand and Fiji, where he scored 2 goals, played against the Fiji U/17 side and the New Zealand U/23 team, containing 5 All Whites, and gained some tremendous international experience.

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Belsouth	Belconnen Soccer Club, Hawker	10am - 2pm	13th
	Jamison Shopping Center	10am - 2pm	13th
Belwest	Latham Playing Fields	10am - 3pm	13th
	Belconnen Markets	10am - 2pm	13th
Blue Light	Calwell Playing Fields	9am - 1pm	14th
Canb Deakin	Canberra Deakin Soccer Club	12pm - 3pm	13th
Gungahlin	Gungahlin Market Place	9am - 1pm	13th
Majura	Dickson Playing Fields	9am - 2pm	13th & 20th
Marist	At Marist College during school hours		
Qbn & Dist	Letchworth Oval	10am - 2pm	13th & 20th
Radford	At Radford during school hours		
St Edmunds	At St Edmunds during schools hours		
Tuggeranong	Eriadale Centre & Lanyon Market Place	10am - 3pm	13th
	Hyperdome	10am - 12pm	13th
Weston Creek	Cooleman Court	9am - 3.30pm	13th
	Waramanga Oval	9am - 4pm	20th & 21st
Woden Valley	Canberra College, Phillip	10am - 2pm	13th

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Course 1	Kambah High School	Feb. 15, 17 & 22	5.30pm - 8.30pm
Course 2	Deakin Sports & Social Club	March 13 & 14	9.00am - 1.00pm
Course 3	Dame Pattie Menzies House, Dickson	March 27 & 28	9.00am - 1.00pm

For further information and to register your place on a referee's course please contact:
Ross Jones on 6242 4870 (h) 6257 1083 (w) Gordon Dunster on 0418 681 796

SmokeFree

www.novell.com.au/cosmos/cosmos.htm
for the latest Cosmos News on the web

SUPPORTERS CLUB

Bus Trip on Saturday 13th February. We are heading up to Sydney to support the Cosmos in their away game against Marconi-Fairfield. A 47 seat luxury coach will be leaving around 1.00pm, with pick-up points at Video Ezy (Mawson Shops) and Belconnen Soccer Club (Hawker). Travel costs are $20 for children under 16 and $25 for adults, but may vary slightly depending on numbers. We are planning to eat at Marconi Soccer Club, before the game. If you would like to be part of this trip, please contact Steve Tonna 6254-3730 or Wilhelmina Kemperman 6295-9848.

PLAYER PROFILE

By Dylan Durie

#27 NICK PURDUE

The new 20-year-old stopper Nick Purdue is on loan from the Northern Spirit for at least the rest of the season.

Purdue has already spent two years in Europe, as a member of first team squads at top-flight clubs in Holland and Belgium. He also made the trip to South America with the Joeys last year, and says playing Uruguay in front of 50,000 people is the highlight of his career to date.

Purdue, born in Sydney and a product of the NSW Academy of Sport, describes himself as "a simple, no frills player" who "just likes to get the job done".

Despite being unable to force his way in to the starting line up yet, Purdue is enjoying his time with the Cosmos and pays tribute to the way his teammates have accepted him and to the coaching of Tom Sermanni.

His ambition is to press for a place in the Olympic team for Sydney 2000 before heading back overseas to forge a career in Europe. Purdue, who has settled in Canberra with his fiancee, says he would like to spend next season with the Cosmos, despite having to compete with a host of players for the stoppers position.

If ambition and dedication count for anything, Purdue will have a significant impact on the NSL in coming years.

AUSTRALIAN WATER SERVICES

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